

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a conference call, comprising:
 - creating, by a subscriber user on a user terminal, a conference call event in a calendar application;
 - automatically configuring a conference call based on the conference call event ;
 - identifying, without user intervention, participant users associated with the conference call event;
 - notifying the subscriber user that the conference call has been configured;
 - contacting the participant users at the time and date of the conference call event;
 - providing the participant users with one or more options for declining the conference call, the one or more options identifying alternatives for communication between the subscriber user and the declining participant users including an option for declining participant users to specify a period of time to delay the conference call;
 - receiving responses from the participant users accepting or declining the conference call;
 - establishing the conference call among the accepting participant users and the subscriber user based on the received responses; and

receiving, from the declining participant users, selections of one or more of the options for declining the conference call.

2-3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the conference call event is a trigger indicating a proposed conference call previously scheduled by the subscriber user.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the proposed conference call identifies the participant users and identifying participant users includes:

collecting an identifier for the participant users from a first data structure corresponding to the conference call event; and
collecting contact information for the participant users from a second data structure based on the participant user identifiers.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the first data structure is associated with the calendar application and the second data structure is associated with an address book listing at least the participant users and their corresponding contact information.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein contacting the identified participant users includes:

collecting contact information associated with the participant users; and establishing a communication connection with the participant users using the contact information.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the contact information comprises telephone numbers associated with the participant users and establishing a communication connection includes:

dialing out to participant users using a respective telephone number.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein contacting the participant users includes calling the participant users using a telephone number and receiving responses from the participant users includes:

providing an indication to the subscriber user reflecting whether the participant users answer the conference call.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein providing an indication includes:

providing a no contact message to the subscriber user when one of the participant users does not answer the conference call.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, further including:
 - providing a no conference call message to the subscriber user when none of the participant users answer the conference call.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein providing an indication includes:
 - providing one or more acceptance messages to the subscriber user when the participant users answer the conference call.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein providing the acceptance message includes:
 - determining whether the participant users accept the conference call.
14. (Canceled)
15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the alternatives for communication between the subscriber user and the declining participant users include:
 - allowing the participant users to record messages for subsequent play back to the subscriber user,

allowing the participant users to set alternate telephone numbers for contacting the participant users, and allowing the participant users to set periods of time in which the participant users are to be contacted again.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein establishing a conference call includes:

establishing a communication connection between the participant users and the subscriber user such that the subscriber user and the participant users may conduct a conference call.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

detecting when one of the participant users terminates its contact during the conference call;
providing a termination message to the subscriber user indicating that the one participant user has ended participation in the conference call.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

recording audio information associated with the subscriber user and the participant users' participation during the conference call;
converting at least some of the audio information to text information; and

recording the text information in a transcript reflecting a textual temporal based representation of communications that have taken place between the users during the conference call.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising:

storing a portion of the audio information that cannot be converted to text information as an audio file; and
inserting a pointer to the audio file in the transcript.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, further comprising:

providing the transcript to the subscriber user.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein providing the transcript includes attaching the transcript to an e-mail addressed to the subscriber user.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein contacting the participant users includes:

determining whether a first one of the participant users has a preferred device registered with a service center, and
contacting the first participant user through the preferred device when the first participant user has a registered preferred device.

23. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the detecting and identifying steps are performed by a digital companion server that provides services to the subscriber user, and wherein contacting the participant users includes:

generating, by the digital companion server, a first message that includes at least instructions for configuring the conference call and telephone numbers for the participant users; and providing the first message to a conference blasting server.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein providing the first message includes:

generating a second message by the conference blasting server based on the first message, wherein the second message includes instructions for setting up the conference call and the telephone numbers; and providing the second message to a conference bridge.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein providing the second message includes:

calling, by the conference bridge, the participant users using the telephone numbers included in the second message.

26. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the subscriber user configures the conference call event by scheduling the conference call in a calendar application for a predetermined date and time and adding the names of the participant users that the subscriber user intends to participate in the conference call.
27. (Original) The method of claim 26, comprising receiving input from the subscriber user to add the names of participant users from an address book to the calendar application, the input being received via a graphical user interface.
28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
 - detecting when a first one of the participant users was dropped from the conference call; and
 - determining whether the first participant user has a preferred device registered with a service center.
29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein when the first participant user has a registered preferred device,
 - attempting to contact the first participant user through the preferred device.
30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, further comprising:

re-establishing the first participant user with the conference call based on a determination that the first participant user wishes to continue participation in the conference call.

31. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein when the first participant user does not have a registered preferred device,
determining contact information associated with a device used by the first participant user to participate in the conference call; and
re-establishing the first user with the conference call using the contact information.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
detecting when a first one of the participant users has terminated participation in the conference call; and
determining whether the first participant user voluntarily or involuntarily terminated participation in the conference call based on the type of device the first participant user was operating during participation in the conference call.

33. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a conference call performed by a server, the method comprising:

creating, by a subscriber user on a user terminal, a conference call event in a calendar application;

automatically configuring the conference call based on the conference call event;

identifying, without user intervention, the participant users associated with the conference call event;

collecting contact information for the participant users;

providing a message including the contact information to a conference server that is configured to instruct a bridge to establish the conference call by calling the participant users using the contact information included in the message;

notifying the subscriber user that the conference call has been configured; contacting each of the participant users; providing the participant users with one or more options for declining the conference call, the one or more options identifying alternatives for communication between the subscriber user and the declining participant users including an option for declining participant users to specify a period of time to delay the conference call;

receiving, from a participant user that declines the conference call, a selection of one or more of the options for declining the conference call; and

receiving a response message from the conference server including information associated with the conference call and at least one of the participant users.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein detecting a conference call event includes:

scanning the calendar application to determine whether the subscriber user has scheduled the conference call event.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, further including:

determining the participant users from the calendar application; accessing an address book associated with the subscriber user for collecting the contact information for the participant users; and generating the message using the collected contact information.

36. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein providing a message includes:

generating the message using the collected contact information and instructions associated with a date for commencing the conference call, and using the message by the conference server to generate a second message for instructing the bridge to establish the conference call.

37. (Original) The method of claim 33, comprising providing the response message by the bridge when attempting to establish communications with the participant users over a voice network.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the response message comprises at least one of:

information stating that at least one participant user is declining the conference call;

information stating that at least one participant user is not answering the conference call;

information stating that at least one participant user is accepting the conference call; and

none of the participant users is answering the conference call.

39. (Currently Amended) A method for participating in a conference call automatically established by at least one or more communication entity, the method comprising:

creating, by a subscriber user on a user terminal, a conference call event in a calendar application;

automatically scheduling a conference call at a predetermined time using the calendar application, wherein scheduling includes identifying,

without user intervention, participant users that are to participate in the conference call;

receiving, prior to the predetermined time, an indication that a conference call has been configured in accordance with the scheduled conference call;

providing the participant users with one or more options for declining the conference call, the one or more options identifying alternatives for communication between the subscriber user and the declining participant users including an option for declining participant users to specify a period of time to delay the conference call;

receiving, after the predetermined time, an indication that at least one participant user has declined to join the conference call, and at least one selection of one or more of the options for declining the conference call; and

during the conference call, receiving an indication that another participant user has ended communications with the conference call when that participant user terminates a connection with a bridge that establishes the conference call in accordance with instructions provided by a server that executes the calendar application.

40. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a conference call, comprising:

receiving a message from a first server including instructions for establishing a conference call between participant users and a

subscriber user that previously created a conference call event in a calendar application on a second server, wherein the second server automatically initiates configuration of the conference call by providing to the first server contact information for the participant users and the message includes the contact information; calling the participant users using the contact information included in the message; providing the participant users with one or more options for declining the conference call, the one or more options identifying alternatives for communication between the subscriber user and the declining participant users including an option for declining participant users to specify a period of time to delay the conference call; receiving responses from the participant users, wherein the responses reflect whether the participant users have answered, accepted, not answered, or declined to accept the conference call, at least one of the responses including a selection of one of the options for declining the conference call; and establishing a conference call between the participant users based on the response received from the participant users.

41. (Currently Amended) A system for providing a conference call, comprising:

a processor;

means for creating, by a subscriber user on a user terminal, a conference call event in a calendar application;

means for automatically configuring a conference call based on the conference call event;

means for identifying, without user intervention, participant users associated with the conference call event;

means for notifying the subscriber user that the conference call has been configured;

means for contacting the participant users at the time and date of the conference call event;

means for providing the participant users with one or more options for declining the conference call, the one or more options identifying alternatives for communication between the subscriber user and the declining participant users including an option for declining participant users to specify a period of time to delay the conference call;

means for receiving responses from the participant users accepting or declining the conference call;

means for establishing the conference call among the accepting participant users and the subscriber user based on the received responses; and

means for receiving, from the declining participant users, selections of one or more of the options for declining the conference call,

wherein at least one of the means runs on the processor.

42-43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the conference call event is a trigger indicating a proposed conference call previously scheduled by the subscriber user.
45. (Original) The system of claim 44, wherein the proposed conference call identifies the participant users and the means for identifying participant users includes:
means for collecting identifiers for the participant users from a first data structure corresponding to the conference call event; and
means for collecting contact information for the participant users from a second data structure based on the participant user identifiers.
46. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 45, wherein the first data structure is associated with the calendar application and the second data structure is associated with an address book listing at least the participant users and their corresponding contact information.

47. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein the means for contacting the identified participant users includes:

means for collecting contact information associated with the participant users; and
means for establishing a communication connection with the participant users using the contact information.

48. (Original) The system of claim 47, wherein the contact information comprises telephone numbers associated with participant users, and the means for establishing a communication connection includes:

means for dialing out to participant users using corresponding telephone numbers.

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the means for contacting the participant users includes means for calling the participant users using telephone numbers and the means for receiving responses from the participant users includes:

means for providing, for the participant users, an indication to the subscriber user reflecting whether a specific one of the participant users answers the conference call.

50. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the means for providing an indication includes:

means for providing a no contact message to the subscriber user when one of the participant users does not answer the conference call.

51. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 50, further including:

means for providing a no conference call message to the subscriber user when none of the participant users answer the conference call.

52. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 49, wherein the means for providing an indication includes:

means for providing one or more acceptance messages to the subscriber user when the participant users answer the conference call.

53. (Previously Presents) The system of claim 52, wherein the means for providing the acceptance message includes:

means for determining whether the participant users accept the conference call.

54. (Canceled)

55. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein
the options for declining the conference call include:
allowing the participant users to record messages for subsequent play
back to the subscriber user,
allowing the participant users to set alternate telephone numbers for
contacting the participant users, and
allowing the participant users to set periods of time in which the participant
users are to be contacted again.

56. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the means for establishing
a conference call includes:

means for establishing communication connections between the
participant users and the subscriber user, such that the users may
conduct a conference call.

57. (Original) The system of claim 41, further comprising:

means for detecting when one of the participant users terminates its
contact during the conference call;
means for providing a termination message to the subscriber user
indicating that the one participant user has ended participation in
the conference call.

58. (Original) The system of claim 41, further comprising:

means for recording audio information associated with participant user's participation during the conference call;

means for converting at least some of the audio information to text information; and

means for recording the text information in a transcript reflecting a textual temporal based representation of communications that have taken place between the users during the conference call.

59. (Original) The system of claim 58, further comprising:

means for storing a portion of the audio information that cannot be converted to text information as an audio file; and

means for inserting a pointer to the audio file in the transcript.

60. (Original) The system of claim 59, further comprising:

means for providing the transcript to the subscriber user.

61. (Original) The system of claim 59, wherein the means for providing the transcript comprises means for attaching the transcript to an e-mail addressed to the subscriber user.

62. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein means for contacting the participant users comprises:

means for determining whether a first one the participant users has a preferred device registered with a service center; and
means for contacting the first participant user through the preferred device when the first participant user has a registered preferred device.

63. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein the means for detecting and means for identifying steps are performed by a digital companion server that provides services to the subscriber user, and wherein the means for contacting the participant users comprises:

means for generating, by the digital companion server, a first message that includes at least instructions for configuring the conference call and telephone numbers for the participant users; and
means for providing the first message to a conference blasting server.

64. (Original) The system of claim 63, wherein the means for providing the first message comprises:

means for generating a second message by the conference blasting server based on the first message, wherein the second message

includes instructions for setting up the conference call and the telephone numbers; and means for providing the second message to a conference bridge.

65. (Original) The system of claim 64, wherein the means for providing the second message includes:

means for calling, by the conference bridge, the participant users using the telephone numbers included in the second message.

66. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein the subscriber user configures the conference call event by scheduling the conference call in a calendar application for a predetermined time and adding the names of the participant users that the subscriber user intends to participate in the conference call.

67. (Original) The system of claim 66, comprising receiving input from the subscriber user to add the names of participant users from an address book to the calendar application, the input being received via a graphical user interface.

68. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 41, further comprising:
means for detecting when a first one of the participant users was dropped from the conference call; and

means for determining whether the first participant user has a preferred device registered with a service center.

69. (Original) The system of claim 68, wherein when the first participant user has a registered preferred device,

means for attempting to contact the first participant user through the preferred device.

70. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 69, further comprising:

means for re-establishing the first participant user with the conference call based on a determination that the first participant user wishes to continue participation in the conference call.

71. (Original) The system of claim 68, further including

means for determining contact information associated with a device used by the first participant user to participate in the conference call when the first participant user does not have a registered preferred device; and

means for re-establishing the first user with the conference call using the contact information.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 41, further comprising:

means for detecting when a first one of the participant users has terminated participation in the conference call; and means for determining whether the first participant user voluntarily or involuntarily terminated participation in the conference call based on the type of device the first participant user was operating during participation in the conference call.

73. (Currently Amended) A server for providing a conference call, comprising:

a processor;
means for creating, by a subscriber user on a user terminal, a conference call event in a calendar application;
means for automatically configuring a conference call based on the conference call event;
means for identifying, without user intervention, the participant users associated with the conference call event;
means for collecting contact information for the participant users;
means for providing a message including the contact information to a conference server that is configured to instruct a bridge to establish the conference call by calling the participant users using the contact information included in the message;

means for notifying the subscriber user that the conference call has been configured;

means for contacting each of the participant users;

means for providing the participant users with one or more options for declining the conference call, the one or more options identifying alternatives for communication between the subscriber user and the declining participant users including an option for declining participant users to specify a period of time to delay the conference call;

means receiving, from a participant user that declines the conference call, a selection of one or more of the options for declining the conference call, and

means for receiving a response message from the conference server including information associated with the conference call and at least one of the participant users,

wherein at least one of the means runs on the processor.

74. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 73, wherein the means for detecting a conference call event comprises:

means for scanning the calendar application to determine whether the subscriber user has scheduled a conference call.

75. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 73, wherein the means for identifying the participant users further comprises:

means for determining the participant users from the calendar application;

wherein the means for collecting contact information further comprises:

means for accessing an address book associated with the subscriber user for collecting the contact information for the participant users; and

wherein the means for providing a message further comprises:

means for generating the message using the collected contact information.

76. (Original) The system of claim 73, wherein the means for providing a message comprises:

means for generating the message using the collected contact information and instructions associated with a time for commencing a conference call previously scheduled by the subscribed user, wherein the message is used by the conference server to generate a second message for instructing the bridge to establish the conference call.

77. (Original) The system of claim 73, wherein the response message is provided by the bridge when attempting to establish communications with the participant users over a voice network.

78. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 73, wherein the response message reflects at least one of:

- at least one participant user is declining the conference call;
- at least one participant user is not answering the conference call;
- at least one participant user is accepting the conference call; and
- none of the participant users is answering the conference call.

79. (Currently Amended) A system for participating in a conference call automatically established by at least one communication entity, the system comprising:

- a processor for executing a program;
- means for creating, by a subscriber user on a user terminal, a conference call event in a calendar application;
- means for automatically scheduling a conference call for a predetermined date and time using a calendar application, wherein the means for scheduling identifies, without user intervention, participant users that are to participate in the conference call;

means for receiving, on the predetermined date and prior to the predetermined time, an indication that a conference call has been configured in accordance with the scheduled conference call; means for providing the participant users with one or more options for declining the conference call, the one or more options identifying alternatives for communication between the subscriber user and the declining participant users including an option for declining participant users to specify a period of time to delay the conference call; means for receiving a indication that at least one participant user has declined to join the conference call, and at least one selection of one or more of the options for declining the conference call; and means for receiving, during the conference call, an indication that another participant user has ended communications with the conference call when that participant user terminates a connection with a bridge that establishes the conference call in accordance with instructions provided by a server that executes the calendar application.

80. (Currently Amended) A conference bridge for providing a conference call, comprising:

a processor;

means for receiving a message from a first server including instructions for establishing a conference call between participant users and a subscriber user that previously created in a calendar application on a second server, wherein the second server automatically initiates configuration of the conference call by providing to the first server contact information for the participant users and the message includes the contact information;

means for calling the participant users using the contact information included in the message;

means for providing the participant users with one or more options for declining the conference call, the one or more options identifying alternatives for communication between the subscriber user and the declining participant users including an option for declining participant users to specify a period of time to delay the conference call;

means for receiving responses from the participant users, wherein the responses reflect whether the participant users have answered, accepted, not answered, or declined to accept the conference call, at least one of the responses including a selection of one of the options for declining the conference call; and

means for establishing a conference call between the participant users based on the received responses,

wherein at least one of the means runs on the processor.

81. (Canceled)

82. (Currently Amended) A secondary storage device or a memory including instructions for performing, when executed by a processor, a method for providing a conference call, comprising:

creating, by a subscriber user on a user terminal, a conference call event in a calendar application;

automatically configuring a conference call based on the conference call event;

identifying, without user intervention, participant users associated with the conference call event;

notifying the subscriber user that the conference call has been configured; contacting the participant users at the time and date of the conference call event;

providing the participant users with one or more options for declining the conference call, the one or more options identifying alternatives for communication between the subscriber user and the declining participant users including an option for declining participant users to specify a period of time to delay the conference call;

receiving responses from the participant users accepting or declining the conference call;

establishing the conference call among the participant users and the subscriber user based on the received responses; and receiving, from the declining participant users, selections of one or more of the options for declining the conference call.

83. (Currently Amended) A secondary storage device or a memory including instructions for performing, when executed by a processor, a method for providing a conference call comprising:

creating, by a subscriber user on a user terminal, a conference call event in a calendar application;

automatically configuring a conference call based on the conference call event;

identifying, without user intervention, the participant users associated with the conference call event;

collecting contact information for the participant users;

providing a message including the contact information to a conference server that is configured to instruct a bridge to establish the conference call by calling the participant users using the contact information included in the message;

notifying the subscriber user that the conference call has been configured;

contacting the participant users;

providing the participant users with one or more options for declining the conference call, the one or more options identifying alternatives for-

communication between the subscriber user and the declining participant users including an option for declining participant users to specify a period of time to delay the conference call;

receiving, from a participant user that declines the conference call, a selection of one or more of the options for declining the conference call, and

receiving a response message from the conference server including information associated with the conference call and at least one of the participant users.

84. (Currently Amended) A secondary storage device or a memory including instructions for performing, when executed by a processor, a method for participating in a conference call automatically established by at least one communication entity, the method comprising:

creating, by a subscriber user on a user terminal, a conference call event in a calendar application;

automatically scheduling a conference call at a predetermined time using the calendar application, wherein scheduling includes identifying, without user intervention, participant users that are to participate in the conference call;

receiving, prior to the predetermined time, an indication that a conference call has been configured in accordance with the scheduled conference call;

providing the participant users with one or more options for declining the conference call, the one or more options identifying alternatives for communication between the subscriber user and the declining participant users including an option for declining participant users to specify a period of time to delay the conference call;

receiving, after the predetermined time, an indication that at least one participant user has declined to join the conference call, and at least one selection of one or more of the options for declining the conference call;

during the conference call, receiving an indication that another participant user has ended communications with the conference call when that participant user terminates a connection with a bridge that establishes the conference call in accordance with instructions provided by a server that executes the calendar application.

85. (Currently Amended) A secondary storage device or a memory including instructions for performing, when executed by a processor, a method for providing a conference call, including:

receiving a message from a first server including instructions for establishing a conference call between participant users and a subscriber user that previously created a conference call event in a calendar application on a second server, wherein the second server automatically initiates configuration of the conference call by

providing to the first server contact information for the participant users and the message includes the contact information; calling the participant users using the contact information included in the message;

providing the participant users with one or more options for declining the conference call, the one or more options identifying alternatives for communication between the subscriber user and the declining-participant users including an option for declining participant users to specify a period of time to delay the conference call;

receiving responses from the participant users, wherein the responses reflect whether the participant users have answered, accepted, not answered, or declined to accept the conference call, at least one of the responses including a selection of one of the options for declining the conference call; and

establishing a conference call between the participant users based on the response received from the participant users.

86. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a conference call, comprising:

creating, by a subscriber user on a user terminal, a conference call event in a calendar application;

automatically configuring the conference call based on the conference call event;

identifying participant users identified in the request;

notifying the subscriber user that the conference call has been configured; contacting the participant users; providing the participant users with one or more options for declining the conference call, the one or more options identifying alternatives for communication between the subscriber user and the declining participant users including an option for declining participant users to specify a period of time to delay the conference call; receiving responses from the participant users accepting or declining the call; establishing a conference call among the accepting participant users and the subscriber user based on the received responses; and receiving, from the declining participant users, selections of one or more of the options for declining the conference call; wherein at least one of the contacting, receiving, and establishing steps is performed without user intervention.

87-90. (Cancelled)